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of prophecy so just that it is hard to believe that they were uttered fifty years ago. Emilio Castelar was a rhetorical idealist, who spent his life in discussing public questions while others held office and faced them, but the majority of the measures championed by the Murcian orator have since prevailed.

Castelar was well known and much admired in the United States during his lifetime, and a portion of his voluminous writings even appeared in English before it was published in Spanish; but for one reason or another no life of him seems yet to have been written by an American. His French friend, E. Varagnac, has just now produced an admiring but temperate discussion of his work and influence, which, although it dwells at length on his special friendship for France, is sufficiently catholic in its treatment to make profitable reading for Americans. Castelar's was a very simple life and theory, after all, and easily presented. Free-trader, abolitionist, republican as he was, all of his doctrines and movements, small and great, were determined by the desire to secure to the greatest possible number of his fellow-mortals the highest possible degree of liberty which was consistent with general justice. He was no iconoclast, no anarchist, no Socialist even; for all his Southern floridity of eloquence, he was one of the sanest and most conservative enthusiasts the world has known. Add to this the constant moral preoccupation which made him, in his own phrase, "the conscience of the nation",—he was a democrat not chiefly for any reason of expediency, but because democracy is the own child of Christianity,—and the resulting personality must be approved as well as admired. M. Varagnac's book is for the most part, indeed, a eulogy; but eulogies such as his are on such occasion justified.

ROY TEMPLE HOUSE.

HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. By William H. Bartlett. Revised and Enlarged Edition by Henry Campbell Black. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co. 1920. Pp. ix, 162.

We have not seen, in our pedagogical experience, a more useful little volume of its kind. The powers and limitations of each of the three branches of our national government and the relations between the national and the state governments are clearly,

briefly, yet adequately, defined. The book is an excellent commentary on the Constitution and on its eighteen amendments. Clear explanations of constitutional or legal terminology place the understanding of our governmental system within the reach of all. An appendix contains the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, chosen topics and questions for study, and a list of useful books for the further investigation of our government. There is a capital index. S. L. WARE.

IBSEN IN ENGLAND. By Miriam Franc. Boston: The Four Seas Company. 1919. Pp. 195.

This is a useful little book, less so in point of style than as regards organization and content. Ibsen's influence made its way slowly at first in England, but the intelligent and faithful propaganda in behalf of the great Norwegian's work, conducted by such men as Edmund Gosse and William Archer, at length broke down opposing prejudices, to the steady betterment of contemporary English drama. Nine out of the ten essays of any importance on Ibsen produced in England between 1872 and 1879 were written by Gosse. In 1880 Ibsen was still practically unknown there, but by 1889 his eventual acceptance was assured. William Archer's famous translations, which he began in 1880 and approximately completed in 1908, and the translator's sturdy battles in defence and exposition of his friend Ibsen, against such opponents as Clement Scott, J. F. Nesbit, Alfred Watson, Marie Corelli, *et al.*, quickened much the rising interest alike of critics, dramatists and public. Other supporters whose word helped win Ibsen's way were Arthur Bingham Walkley, Addison Bright, E. F. Spence, Joseph Knight, Arthur Symons, George Moore and Henry James. The chief credit as literary and dramatic prophets, however, should go to Gosse and Archer. Then, too, came George Bernard Shaw into the lists—that 'Hibernian edition of Ibsen'—with his ready acceptance and challenging espousal of the master; an espousal which, we fear, if not too enthusiastic, is at least too carelessly combative, too neglectfully point-missing, in his book, *The Quintessence of Ibsenism*.